



U.S. Department of Energy

National Energy Technology Laboratory



January 18, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR MARK J. MATARRESE
HEADQUARTER'S FOSSIL ENERGY NEPA COMPLIANCE
OFFICER

FROM: JAN K. WACHTER
NETL INTERIM NEPA COMPLIANCE OFFICER

SUBJECT: Annual National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Planning Summary
and Site-Wide Review

The attached documents contain the Annual NEPA Planning Summary and the Site-Wide NEPA Review for the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL). The information is presented using the general guidance and formats provided by the Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance. Please forward these files to the Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance.

As required by Department of Energy Order 451.1B, the Annual NEPA Planning Summary will be made available to the public. If, during the course of this year, additional Environmental Assessments or Environmental Impact Statements are determined to be necessary, an addendum to the Annual Planning Summary will be submitted. Please contact NETL's Interim NEPA Compliance Officer, Jan Wachter, at (412) 386-4809 for any additional information regarding NETL's NEPA plans.

Attachment

cc: ES&H Records Center (DOE 451.1)

e-mail cc: E. Cohen, DOE-HQ
D. Freeman, DOE-HQ
J. Wachter

Site-Wide NEPA Review
National Energy Technology Laboratory
31-Jan-05

The National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) evaluated the value of performing a site-wide National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review (i.e., preparing an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment) for its four sites at Morgantown, WV; Pittsburgh, PA; Tulsa, OK; and Fairbanks, AK. Based on this evaluation using the criteria identified below, NETL determined that site-wide NEPA analysis for any or all of the NETL sites would not facilitate future NEPA planning or NEPA compliance requirements.

Background

The Federal activities at NETL's Morgantown, Pittsburgh, Tulsa and Anchorage sites consist primarily of procurement, project management, analysis, and contract monitoring of off-site research, development, and demonstration projects related to increasing domestic petroleum and natural gas reserves through application of new or advanced technology, natural gas processing, environmental and efficiency improvements for fossil fuel-based electric power generation, production of transportation fuels from coal and natural gas, energy conservation, improving environmental quality, and supporting initiatives for controlling climate change and sequestering carbon dioxide. NETL's Morgantown and Pittsburgh sites are locations for on-site research and facilities maintenance activities that support DOE's Fossil Energy program. The on-site research at these two locations represents a small portion (e.g., one-tenth) of the total DOE program implemented by NETL. NETL's Tulsa site operates from offices in downtown Tulsa and conducts no on-site research. NETL's Fairbanks site operates from University of Alaska offices.

All projects proposed to NETL for funding are subjected to NEPA review and evaluation prior to final decision and implementation. With only minor exceptions resulting from construction activities, the on-site projects and activities implemented by NETL typically qualify and are appropriate for categorical exclusion under DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures.

NETL's on-going, on-site operational, research and maintenance activities consist of small projects that vary in type annually but that generally do not vary substantially in size or scale. New projects implemented on an annual basis at NETL historically fall into categories of actions that the Department has determined to be encompassed within classes that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the environment. For the foreseeable future, this situation is expected to exist. Also, no changes in site character are envisioned in the foreseeable future.

The combination of all research and maintenance activities at the Pittsburgh and Morgantown sites is periodically examined as part of either a planning or a performance analysis process. From these evaluations, the collective environmental consequences from activities at each site have been determined to be insignificant, and NETL does not maintain any permanent storage or disposal areas that could potentially become sources of significant impacts.

Efficiency

NETL's on-site research activities, as determined on an annual basis, typically total approximately 50 research projects within specific mission areas assigned to NETL. The types of new activities (approximately 10 – 15) annually performed on-site are covered within Appendixes A and B of 10 CFR Part 1021 and can efficiently be evaluated individually and collectively in the absence of a site-wide review.

Tiering

A site-wide NEPA document would not preclude the need for annual reviews of the scopes and natures of individual research and other site projects. Due to the relatively small scale and number of on-site activities, supplemental reviews of activities comprising actions that typically qualify for categorical exclusion would not result in a less complex analysis.

Segmentation and Cumulative Effects

Research projects at NETL typically consist of distinct experimental activities of a nature determined by the Department to be categorically excluded from environmental assessment or environmental impact statement levels of review. These activities are independently evaluated on an annual basis to ensure that they are stand-alone activities and not segments of larger activities that would trigger a more extensive level of review. In addition, no local off-site environmental stresses or developments of a significant nature result from NETL's on-site activities. Thus, no conditions exist where cumulative environmental effects or impacts could become a concern.

Land Use Planning

Activities at the Pittsburgh site are dispersed geographically within the 239-acre Bruceton Research Center, a Federal research site located approximately 13 miles south of Pittsburgh. NETL is a tenant at this site, for which the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health is landlord to both DOE and an office of the Mine Safety and Health Administration. Activities at the Morgantown site are more compact and are conducted in buildings situated on 35 developed acres of a 132-acre DOE site, where DOE is landlord to a facility owned by the U.S. Navy. The activities at Tulsa and Fairbanks are conducted from an office location in downtown Tulsa and on-campus at the University of Alaska.

The NETL sites at Morgantown and Pittsburgh are bordered by residential areas that have substantially developed over the years around the locations of NETL's facilities. Research operations at both sites are conducted in numerous buildings; although these activities may change in scope on an annual basis, their scales are relatively constant. Thus, the available research structures are such that NETL does not anticipate any reasonably foreseeable future need for additional site development or alternative land use that would be facilitated for environmental planning purposes by a site-wide NEPA review.

Public Participation

NETL maintains public contacts and regularly solicits input regarding on-site activities. Community Interest Groups and neighborhood association meetings are used to obtain feedback on community interests and concerns, and NETL uses this feedback to enhance communications for a broader understanding and greater acceptance of site activities.

Local media solicitations and announcements are used to obtain public input. In addition, NETL periodically supplements the on-going public interactions through open-house

meetings where members of the public can observe NETL's operations first-hand and participate in discussions of NETL's activities.

Conclusion

Based on the above considerations, we have concluded that a site-wide NEPA review for the National Energy Technology Laboratory would not aid in streamlining the NEPA process, would not add additional value to decision-makers and the public, and would not reduce the time and cost required to prepare NEPA documents. Thus, development of a site-wide NEPA review is not planned.

Annual NEPA Planning Summary

National Energy Technology Laboratory

Date: 31-Jan-05

Environmental Assessments

#	Title; Location Support Contractor; Estimated Cost	Milestone Schedule (Completed/Projected)		Description of Document Status
1493	Multi-Pollutant Control Project at the AES Greenidge Power Plant; Dresden, NY; Contractor - Oak Ridge National Laboratory; Cost - \$125,000	Determination:	Jan-04	FONSI issued on December 3, 2004.
		Notification:	Jan-04	
		Internal Scoping:	Jan-04	
		Draft EA:	May-04	
		Public Notice:	Jun-04	
		Close Comments:	Jul-04	
		Final EA:	Aug-04	
		FONSI or EIS Decision:	Dec-04	
1498	Advanced Multi-Product Coal Utilization By-Product Processing Plant; Carrollton, KY; Contractor - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Cost - \$125,000	Determination:	Feb-04	FONSI issued on December 9, 2004.
		Notification:	Feb-04	
		Internal Scoping:	Apr-04	
		Draft EA:	Sep-04	
		Public Notice:	Sep-04	
		Close Comments:	Oct-04	
		Final EA:	Nov-04	
		FONSI or EIS Decision:	Dec-04	
TBD	Thermoacoustic Liquefaction of Coal Mine Waste Methane to Produce LNG; Monongalia County, WV; Contractor - RDS, LLC; Cost - \$34,000	Determination:	Jan-05	Milestone schedule currently being developed.
		Notification:	Jan-05	
		Internal Scoping:	Jan-05	
		Draft EA:	Feb-05	
		Public Notice:	Feb-05	
		Close Comments:	Mar-05	
		Final EA:	Mar-05	
		FONSI or EIS Decision:	Mar-05	
TBD	Peabody Energy Airborne Process Commercial-Scale Demonstration Program (Mustang Energy Flue Gas Cleanup), Grants, New Mexico; Contractor - TBD; Costs - TBD	Determination:	Feb-05	Contract is still being negotiated and all schedules including NEPA are subject to major revision. This activity is being analyzed first through the environmental assessment process. The product of this process will be to either issue a FONSI or proceed with an EIS.
		Notification:	Feb-05	
		Internal Scoping:	Mar-05	
		Draft EA:	Sep-05	
		Public Notice:	Oct-05	
		Close Comments:	Dec-05	
		Final EA:	Feb-06	
		FONSI or EIS Decision:	Apr-06	

Annual NEPA Planning Summary

National Energy Technology Laboratory

Date: 31-Jan-05

Environmental Impact Statements

#	Title; Location Support Contractor; Estimated Cost	Milestone Schedule (Completed/Projected)		Description of Document Status
284	Low Emissions Boiler System Proof-of-Concept Project; Elkhart, IL; Contractor - Oak Ridge National Laboratory; Cost: \$400,000	Determination:	5-Sep-96	NETL activities (e.g., reviewing and issuing preliminary FEIS) activities currently "on-hold" awaiting resolution of financing issues related to this proposed project.
		Notification:	5-Sep-96	
		Internal Scoping:	Oct-96	
		Notice of Intent:	13-Dec-96	
		FR Announcement:	19-Dec-96	
		Public Meetings:	Jan-97	
		Close Comments:	3-Feb-97	
		Draft EIS:	5-Feb-04	
		Public Meetings:	30-Mar-04	
		Preliminary FEIS:	Dec-04	
		FEIS:	Apr-05	
		ROD:	Jun-05	
357	Gilberton Coal to Clean Fuels and Power Project; Gilberton, PA; Contractor - Oak Ridge National Laboratory; Cost: \$800,000	Determination:	5-Mar-03	Preliminary draft EIS currently being reviewed by NETL and industrial participants.
		Notification:	5-Mar-03	
		Internal Scoping:	May-03	
		Notice of Intent:	4-Apr-03	
		FR Announcement:	10-Apr-03	
		Public Meetings:	5-May-03	
		Close Comments:	19-May-03	
		Draft EIS:	May-05	
		Public Meetings:	Jul-05	
		Preliminary FEIS:	Sep-05	
		FEIS:	Dec-05	
		ROD:	Feb-06	
361	Western Greenbrier Co-Production Demonstration Project; Rainelle, Greenbrier Country, WV; Contractor - Potomac-Hudson Engineering; Cost: \$746,600	Determination:	12-May-03	Fieldwork conducted during Summer 2004 for preparing Draft EIS. New alternative is being considered (alternate location). Project changes are being considered (building new transmission line; acquisition of 40 acres of land).
		Notification:	May-03	
		Internal Scoping:	May-03	
		Notice of Intent:	28-May-03	
		FR Announcement:	3-Jun-03	
		Public Meetings:	19-Jun-03	
		Close Comments:	3-Jul-03	
		Draft EIS:	Jun-05	
		Public Meetings:	Nov-05	
		Preliminary FEIS:	Feb-06	
		FEIS:	Apr-06	
		ROD:	Jun-06	

366	Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Implementing the Office of Fossil Energy's Carbon Sequestration Program; Contractor - Potomac-Hudson Engineering; Cost: \$858,000	Determination:	31-Oct-03	Six public hearings were held (May 6 - June 10, 2004). Preparation of draft EIS is on-going. Initial "opening" chapters are being reviewed by NETL.
		Notification:	x	
		Internal Scoping:	Feb-04	
		Notice of Intent:	Mar-04	
		FR Announcement:	21-Apr-05	
		Public Meetings:	Jun-04	
		Close Comments:	25-Jun-04	
		Draft EIS:	Nov-05	
		Public Meetings:	Feb-06	
		Preliminary FEIS:	Sep-06	
		FEIS:	Nov-06	
		ROD:	Dec-06	
TBD	Implementation of the FutureGen Project; Contractor - TBD; Costs - TBD	Determination:	Feb-04	Pending successful negotiations with industry alliance that would be contracted with to implement FutureGen Project, meaningful NEPA schedules would then be developed.
		Notification:	Mar-04	
		Internal Scoping:	May-04	
		Notice of Intent:	TBD	
		FR Announcement:	TBD	
		Public Meetings:	TBD	
		Close Comments:	TBD	
		Draft EIS:	TBD	
		Public Meetings:	TBD	
		Preliminary FEIS:	TBD	
		FEIS:	TBD	
		ROD:	TBD	

#	Title; Location Support Contractor; Estimated Cost	Milestone Schedule (Completed/Projected)		Description of Document Status
TBD	Southern Company CCPI Project, Stanton (Orlando), Florida; Contractor - TBD; Costs - TBD	Determination:	Mar-05	Contract is still being negotiated and all schedules including NEPA are subject to major revision.
		Notification:	Mar-05	
		Internal Scoping:	Apr-05	
		Notice of Intent:	May-05	
		FR Announcement:	May-05	
		Public Meetings:	Jun-05	
		Close Comments:	Aug-05	
		Draft EIS:	Dec-05	
		Public Meetings:	Jan-06	
		Preliminary FEIS:	May-06	
		FEIS:	Jul-06	
		ROD:	Nov-06	
TBD	Excelsior IGCC Project, Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota; Contractor - TBD; Costs - TBD	Determination:	Feb-05	Contract is still being negotiated and all schedules including NEPA are subject to major revision.
		Notification:	Feb-05	
		Internal Scoping:	Mar-05	
		Notice of Intent:	Apr-05	
		FR Announcement:	Apr-05	
		Public Meetings:	May-05	
		Close Comments:	Jun-05	
		Draft EIS:	Nov-05	
		Public Meetings:	Dec-05	
		Preliminary FEIS:	Apr-06	
		FEIS:	Jun-06	
		ROD:	Oct-06	